



**Annual African American Legislative  
Leadership Conference  
Governor's Faith Leaders' Prayer Breakfast**  
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer  
Thursday, February 9, 2012

**Thank you for the invitation to be with you this morning -- to join in the celebration of your 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.**

**I congratulate you on that milestone – coming, as it does, close to the time -- just five days from now – when we all will mark our passage into Arizona's Second Century.**

**You know, it was prayer that started Arizona's journey from Territory to State -- 100 years ago.**

**The Rev. Seaborn Crutchfield of Tempe gave the opening prayer at the Constitutional convention, saying, "As King Solomon prayed for guidance to wisely rule a great people, so we ask Thee to direct us in the adoption of a wise and just Constitution."**

**And, the preamble to the Arizona Constitution that emerged from that convention proclaims, “We the people of the State of Arizona, grateful to Almighty God for our liberties, do ordain this Constitution.”**

**Yes, prayer has defined our state -- from their very beginning. That’s why I’ve proudly issued proclamations declaring “Arizona Days of Prayer.”**

**As you probably know, some people didn’t like that, and, in March of 2010, an out-of-state group filed suit to have the proclamations declared unconstitutional.**

**Well, as you also might know ... I’m a fighter.**

**I was not about to back down.**

**Public calls to prayer are an honored American tradition -- going back to the days of George Washington.**

**Days of prayer invite Americans of every race -- background -- and creed -- to come together – voluntarily – to pray for guidance, wisdom and courage.**

**The lawsuit to stop prayer proclamations was nothing more than an attempt to stifle a recognition of a fundamental American freedom - religious expression.**

**But, this past December, the U.S. District Court threw out the baseless lawsuit for what it is – a futile attempt to stifle an American right and tradition. They have re-filed in State Court and we will vigorously defend against this frivolous lawsuit gain.**

**In addition to preserving the freedom and right of prayer for our Centennial Year and through our next century, I'm asking every Arizonan to make a personal statement in support of that celebration.**

**I'm calling on everyone to make a contribution to the future – volunteer – volunteer at your local school – volunteer in service at your place of worship – volunteer at shelters, at food banks. People are still hurting.**

**So, I'm asking Arizonans to volunteer for the least and the lost.**

**Volunteer to provide food or clothing to the less fortunate. Lend a hand at a charity, retirement home, hospital – anywhere your talents, time and heart can be invested in the lives of others.**

**Let the spirit of service be at the heart of our centennial year.**

**That's how we can continue to provide food, shelter, and comfort for the needy.**

**I want to thank each of you for being a part of that sharing and caring – and for keeping the spiritual message that God has placed in your hearts.**

**God's love shines through every challenge we face and comforts and guides us.**

**His truth is the ultimate power source, and may it strengthen and preserve you and your families and the great state of Arizona.**

**May God keep you always, and may you always keep God.**

**Thank you.**